

Rutgers newark connections

FALL 2003

A newsletter for the Rutgers-Newark community and neighbors



Celebrating the Art at the Heart of Campus

by Helen Paxton and Mike Sutton

While Newark's energetic metropolitan beat and thriving diversity have long made the city fertile ground for the arts, the past few years have turned it into an especially inviting environment. The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) has become a magnet for renowned performers. And Newark is home to some of the area's most acclaimed arts organizations, including the Newark Museum, the New Jersey Symphony and radio station WBGO.

But no list of hot arts venues in the city would be complete without Rutgers-Newark. The university features nationally recognized programs in the visual and performing arts. Small wonder, then, that R-N is launching its first comprehensive

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Left: The promotional poster sums up the arts campaign's central theme—"Explore the Arts" at R-N. Above: Ian Watson, chair of visual and performing arts, nestles amid sculptural installations in Bradley Hall.

**EXPLORE
THE
ARTS**

VISUAL ARTS
THEATRE
MUSIC

at Rutgers-Newark

Poster: Ajlira Design

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Abbott Leadership Institute Forges Parent/School Communication

by Mike Sutton

Rutgers-Newark's recently created Abbott Leadership Institute (ALI) is teaching parents and educators in Newark's disadvantaged school districts to work together more effectively as partners in educational reform.

The institute – which operates out of R-N's Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies – was created in response to the N.J. Supreme Court's rulings in the landmark case *Abbott v.*

Burke. The court made the state directly responsible for reforming educational programs in about 30 disadvantaged school districts across New Jersey – a decision that will directly affect the lives and futures of about 360,000 children, most of them African-American and Latino.

While the court's ruling mandated that parents were to be “partners” with school officials in helping to correct

inequities between urban and suburban school systems, neither side was precisely sure how this arrangement would work in practical terms.

“Studies have shown that children do better in school when their parents are involved,” said Junius Williams, director of the institute. “*Abbott* has provided a bulwark for change in schools, and the Supreme Court has said there should be maximum participation of parents and the community in this process.”

The Abbott Leadership Institute's first two courses have focused on teaching parents in the “Abbott districts” to use databases to study their school systems, and on how to organize effectively to communicate with educators while avoiding mutual recrimination and finger-pointing. A new class began at the ALI in late September, offering new models designed to further engage parents and education professionals in fulfilling the *Abbott* mandate.

Junius Williams (l) chats with Joseph C. Cornwall at the official opening of the Cornwall Center's building.

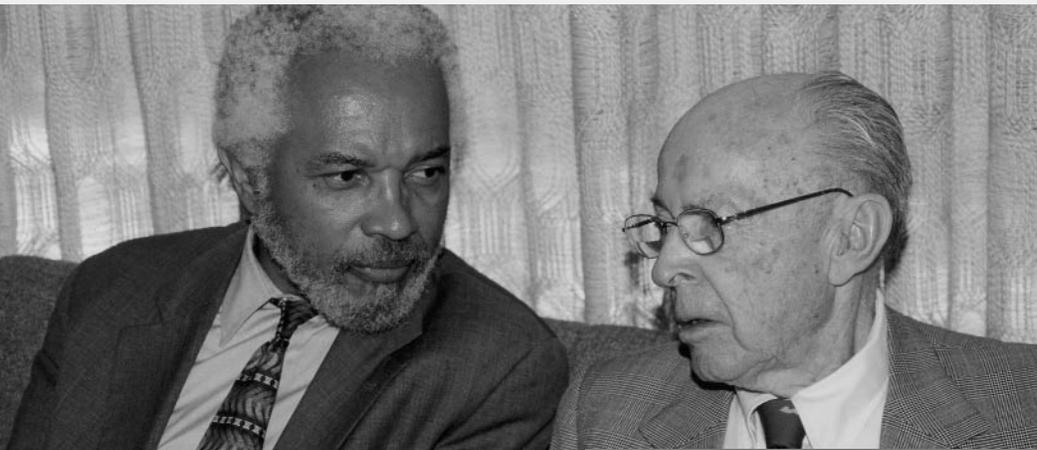


Photo: Shelley Kusnetz

Rutgers-Newark Student Wins Seat on Local School Board

by Mike Sutton

When Rutgers-Newark sophomore Sergio Bichao and his two running mates scraped together \$2,000 to run for seats on the Hillside, N.J., Board of Education earlier this year, few observers gave the fledgling politicians a chance. After all, their experienced opponents had a \$30,000 war chest for their own political campaign, as well as extensive connections to administrators in the Hillside school system.

Photo: Mike Sutton



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Bichao helped three candidates campaign for seats on the school board last year before running himself.

their first full school year on the Hillside Board of Education.

Bichao said he was prompted to become involved by what he perceived as waste and misdirected spending in the school budgeting and funding processes.

The journalism major said he was uncertain if a political future lay ahead. “Surprisingly, I don’t find politics that appealing,” he said. “I’d much rather work from outside the system. In the end, I did it because I felt that if nobody else was willing to do it, I would.”



Kinoy (r) talks shop with Leonard Boudin, another prominent attorney known for his defense of liberal causes, at R-N's law school in 1974.

Archive photo

In Memorium: Arthur Kinoy

Arthur Kinoy, professor emeritus at Rutgers School of Law-Newark and an ardent civil rights advocate during his 50-year legal career, died Sept. 19 at the age of 82.

Kinoy joined the faculty of the law school in 1964. He founded the university's Constitutional Law Clinic and later helped start the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York.

"His lifelong commitment to equality and social justice enriched the lives of colleagues and students alike," said Stuart Deutsch, dean of Rutgers-Newark's law school.

Kinoy had already gained national recognition in 1953 by representing

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg during their final appeal. The couple had been convicted of smuggling atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet Union and sentenced to death. He also turned his attention to the civil rights movement in the South, rediscovering a Reconstruction-era law that allowed civil rights cases to be pulled from state courts and tried at the federal level. Defending students protesting the Vietnam War in the 1960s, he successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court that First Amendment rights took precedence over state laws curtailing the activities of political groups deemed "subversive." In all, he personally argued before the Supreme Court on six occasions, winning five times.

In 1991, Kinoy retired from Rutgers-Newark and was named a professor emeritus.

Professor Frank Askin, current director of the Constitutional Law Clinic, observed, "Because of [Arthur Kinoy's] example, young men and women came out of law school more interested in a career dedicated to advancing the public interest than to pursuing private gain."

Samuels Named Provost Emeritus

Add another line to former Rutgers-Newark Provost Norman Samuels' already impressive c.v.

Samuels, who held the post for two decades before returning to the classroom and teaching political science last year, has been named Provost Emeritus by the Rutgers Board of Governors. His new position follows his terms as acting president at Rutgers University (2002) and executive vice president of Rutgers University (2003).

Kirby Appointed FAS-N Dean

Edward Kirby has been appointed dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences-Newark. Kirby had served as acting dean since July 2002.

"Dean Kirby brings extensive experience and energy to the challenges and opportunities ahead," said Provost Steven Diner.

Kirby joined the Rutgers-Newark faculty in 1978 as an assistant professor of botany, rising to the post of associate dean by 1983.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CALENDAR



EVENTS

www.newark.rutgers.edu/events



October 9

Inkhay featuring Pepe Santana.

Traditional music from the highlands of South America. **LOCATION:** Atrium of Center for Law and Justice, 123 Washington St., 12:30 p.m. Free admission.

October 22-26

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged).

This witty and irreverent deconstruction

of the Bard opens the joint Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Arts Program's season. **LOCATION:** Bradley Hall Theatre, Bradley Hall, 110 Warren Street, 3rd floor. Oct. 22-25, 7 p.m.; Oct. 26, 2:30 p.m. **TICKETS:** \$5 (students and seniors), \$7 (others). **INFO:** Dan Drew, 973/353-5119 ext. 17.

October 24-25

Philosophy Born of Struggle.

A conference featuring 30 nationally known Africana philosophers addressing the theme "Rethinking the Intellectual

Life." **FEATURED SPEAKERS:** Poet Sonia Sanchez, followed by Cornel West's keynote address on Oct. 24, 7 p.m. West is a professor of religion, philosophy and African-American Studies at Princeton University and author of numerous award-winning books. **LOCATION:** Paul Robeson Campus Center, 350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Oct. 24, 9 a.m.; Oct. 25, 8:30 a.m. **INFO:** Anna Stubblefield, 973/353-1396, get2anna@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

People in the news...from page 3

Vincenti Assumes Role of Executive Vice Provost

Provost Steven Diner has announced the appointment of Gene Vincenti to executive vice provost for administration, praising him as being “deeply committed to this campus and to the city of Newark.”

In his new role, Vincenti – a key administrator at Rutgers-Newark for more than 25 years – oversees budget and financial planning and management for the campus, which has an operating budget in excess of \$130 million. In addition, he is the chief facilities planning officer for the campus and supervises several operational units.

An alumnus of Rutgers twice over (NCAS '71 and GSM '73), Vincenti has been a key player in the development of Newark's University Heights district.

Morrell Honored with Role Model Award

Janice Morrell, director of minority affairs and special assistant to the dean at Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, received a National Role Model Award at the Minority Access Inc. conference in Washington, D.C., in September. Minority Access Inc. is a non-profit educational organization that supports private and public sector efforts to create a more diverse workforce.

“As our coordinator of minority affairs, Jan is very committed to the students that she helps to bring to Rutgers and



Janice Morrell

maintains personal relationships with them throughout their MBA experience with us,” said Howard Tuckman, dean of the business school.

Marcia Brown, associate provost for student and community affairs, agreed, noting that because of Morrell's work, “Rutgers Business School consistently ranks in the top 10 percent of schools producing MBA graduates of color.”



The Rutgers-Newark Wellness Committee will sponsor a health fair on Norman Samuels Plaza under the theme "R U Healthy" Oct. 8. The campaign will begin with a fitness march, led by Provost Steven Diner and Provost Emeritus Norman Samuels, along with faculty, staff and students. The event is to include mobile health screening labs, fitness and massage therapy, cultural dancers, music, booths with health information, vendors, free samples of healthy foods, t-shirts and prizes. The fair will run from noon-4 p.m.

Ringel Plans to Stay Close to 'Home'

by Carla Capizzi

Lillian Ringel's official Rutgers role is over, but not her involvement with RU. The Maplewood resident's six-year term on the Rutgers Board of Trustees ended this past spring, but Ringel is already planning on volunteering for the 2004 Academic Challenge and continuing her active role in the Alumni Association of the Rutgers School of Social Work, where she earned a master's degree in 1997.

That's not a surprise to those who know Ringel. Even as a homemaker, she was active in the community and in her children's schools, which was “almost like hands-on training” in planning, organization and communications, she recalls. After raising her three children, she went to college, earning degrees in social work, then spent 23 years working with families, children and senior citizens in Newark, retiring only two years ago. The transplanted Californian moved to Newark in the



Ringel and N.J. Gov. James McGreevey at R-N commencement ceremonies in May

1940s and came to love the city. Over the years, she has been a special friend to the Rutgers-Newark campus both as a trustee and as a dedicated volunteer, pitching in at many campus functions and lending support at commencements and other special occasions.

Ringel, who witnessed the campus's transformation from the post-World War II years until today, observed, “When I come to R-N, I feel like I'm home.”

Komisaruk Awarded BOG Distinguished Service Professorship

By Carla Capizzi



Archive photo

Colleagues on the Rutgers-Newark campus have long respected Barry Komisaruk, not just for his outstanding scholarship but also for his commitment to science education for minority youth. This past summer, the Rutgers Board of Governors joined the list of Komisaruk’s admirers, naming the psychology professor a Distinguished Service Professor. The award – one of the most prestigious faculty honors at the university – also cited Komisaruk’s “distinguished research and publication record.”

Professor Komisaruk with aspiring scientists

Throughout his career, Komisaruk has shared his time and his energies with his students. For nearly two decades, he was a leader and principal investigator with the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Minority Biomedical Research Support program (MBRS) at Rutgers-Newark. He also developed the FASE*ONE (Future American Scientist Elementary* Outreach) program, which brought Newark elementary school children onto the campus during the summer for scientific experiments and lab work under Komisaruk’s direction.

Last year, Minority Access Inc. recognized Komisaruk’s numerous contributions by naming him a Minority Access Role Model. Minority Access Inc. is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to building a more diverse workforce.

New R-N Science Building Slated for Fall Groundbreaking

by Mike Sutton

Rutgers-Newark plans to break ground this fall on one of the largest building projects in its history – a new \$18 million, six-story life-sciences building that will add about 67,000 square feet of state-of-the-art research and teaching space to the university’s science departments. The building will be located at the current site of the Aidekman Research Center parking lot, and will connect to Olson Hall at the basement level – which will house additional research facilities and equipment – and on the first three floors, allowing easy access from one building to the other.

“This new facility will be a very important part of the future of our science programs here at Rutgers-Newark,” said Edward Kirby, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences-Newark (FASN). “It’s going to be an important asset in recruiting new faculty.”

Illustration: Nadaskay Kopelson Architects



The building is specially designed to place the offices of the principal investigators leading research teams close to their labs, and features common areas and large open labs where scientists from multiple disciplines can freely exchange ideas, both in casual environments and while at work, said Andy Lee, senior project manager for the design and construction of the science facility.

Two floors of the building have been designated as “shell space” – unoccupied areas that will permit future expansion as R-N sciences continue to grow.

The City, the Campus and All That Jazz

by Mike Sutton

Jazz has a rich tradition in the Newark and New York City arts scenes. The music's raw vitality and sheer complexity seem to make it a perfect soundtrack for the metropolitan area.

With the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) in Dana Library – the world's foremost jazz archive – at the fingertips of the university's students, and the collective jazz talent of northern New Jersey and New York City on all sides, R-N is in many ways in the center of the jazz universe, observed Lewis Porter, professor of music and professional jazz pianist and critic.

The unrivaled material in the IJS has allowed the music department to offer the first master's degree in jazz history available in the world, and the proximity of so many talented musicians has permitted Rutgers-Newark to draw on jazz legends like Newark's own Leo Johnson as teachers. One of the most visible results has been R-N's own much-praised student jazz ensemble, The Jazz Mosaic.

Lewis Porter

Porter also noted that the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) – in addition to bringing internationally renowned jazz artists such as Wynton Marsalis to Newark – has worked behind the scenes to promote music education in the city's schools.

Laughing, Porter recounts that his own first exposure to jazz came from a considerably more lowbrow source than a university or concert hall. The pounding jazz score of the 1960s television detective drama *Peter Gunn* was what initially drew his attention to the genre as a child.

"Jazz hit me, and it has never let up," Porter said. "One of the things that I love about jazz is that it is so complex that it is satisfying from an intellectual point of view, but at the same time it's so emotional."

Porter will be featured in two free performances this year at R-N: 4 p.m., Oct. 22 and 5:30 p.m., March 3. For details check www.newark.rutgers.edu/arts.



Photo: Arthur Paxton

Celebrating... from page 1

promotional effort to make the university and city communities more aware of all the treasures that the campus has to offer.

Titled "Explore the Arts," the campaign will involve the university's music, theater and visual arts programs in a joint effort to promote musical events around campus, 25 performances by the Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Arts Program, visual arts exhibits and the continuation of last year's successful series Concerts in the Center for Law and Justice.

"I think this is a tremendous idea," said Ian Watson, chair of visual and performing arts, observing that promoting all of the arts on campus under one thematic umbrella would increase their visibility. "It will be like an instrument with many strings – each different but part of a whole."

As part of the promotional campaign, the campus has produced a comprehensive calendar, commemorative poster and special Web site. To receive a copy of the poster, please contact the Office of Campus Communications at 973/353-5262 or at occ@andromeda.rutgers.edu. For more information on what's in store for the arts at R-N this year, visit www.newark.rutgers.edu/arts.

KEEP CONNECTED

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